

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) An automated telephony interface for use with a source telecommunications device configured to initiate a telecommunications session, comprising:

a scanner; and

a session initiator, coupled to said scanner, that parses information read by said scanner, extracts a telephone number from said information, and determines whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based on ~~at least one of~~ an orientation of said information read by said scanner ~~and a status of said source telecommunications device~~, said session initiator further transmitting a signal containing said telephone number to said source telecommunications device thereby initiating a telecommunications session.

23. (previously presented) The interface as recited in Claim 22 wherein said session initiator determines whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based further on a user-input manually entered into said scanner or said session initiator.

24. (previously presented) The interface as recited in Claim 23 further including a user-operable switch coupled to said scanner or said session initiator for receiving said user-input.

25. (previously presented) The interface as recited in Claim 22 wherein said session initiator determines whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based further on a user-input manually entered into said source telecommunications device.

26. (currently amended) The interface as recited in Claim 22 wherein said session initiator determines whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based further on a status of said source telecommunications device ~~orientation is selected from a first orientation in~~

~~which said information is read by said scanner in a first direction along a card and a second orientation in which said information is read by said scanner in a second direction along said card.~~

27. (currently amended) The interface as recited in Claim 26 ~~22~~ wherein said status of said source telecommunications device is a ready status of a source telephone.

28. (currently amended) The interface as recited in Claim 26 ~~22~~ wherein said status of said source telecommunications device is a ready status of a source facsimile device.

29. (currently amended) A method of initiating a telecommunications session at a source telecommunications device, comprising:

scanning information on a card with a scanner;

parsing said information with a session initiator coupled to said scanner;

extracting a telephone number from said information with said session initiator;

determining with said session initiator whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based on ~~at least one of~~ an orientation of said information read by said scanner ~~and a status of said source telecommunications device; and~~

initiating a telecommunications session by transmitting a signal containing said telephone number from said session initiator to said source telecommunications device.

30. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said determining is further based on a user-input manually entered into said scanner.

31. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 30 wherein said determining includes receiving said user-input from a user-operable switch coupled to said scanner.

32. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said determining is further based on a user-input manually entered into said session initiator.

33. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 32 wherein said determining includes receiving said user-input from a user-operable switch coupled to said session initiator.

34. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said determining is further based on a user-input manually entered into said source telecommunications device.

35. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 34 wherein said determining includes receiving said user-input from a user-operable switch coupled to said source telecommunications device.

36. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein said determining is further based on a status of said source telecommunications device ~~scanning includes scanning in a direction selected from first and second directions along said card and said orientation is selected from first and second orientations corresponding to said first and second directions, respectively.~~

37. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim ~~36~~ 29 wherein said status of said source telecommunications device is a ready status of a source telephone.

38. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim ~~36~~ 29 wherein said status of said source telecommunications device is a ready status of a source facsimile device.

39. (currently amended) A method of initiating a telecommunications session at a source telecommunications device, comprising:

reading information having an orientation on a card;

parsing said information;

extracting a telephone number from said information;

determining whether to use said telephone number to initiate faxing or phoning based on said orientation of said information read ~~at least one of said orientation and a status of said source telecommunications device;~~ and

transmitting a signal containing said telephone number to said source telecommunications device thereby initiating a telecommunications session.

40. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 39 wherein said determining is further based on a status of said source telecommunications device ~~scanning includes scanning in a direction selected from first and second directions along said card and said orientation is selected from first and second orientations corresponding to said first and second directions, respectively.~~

41. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim ~~40~~ 39 wherein said status of said source telecommunications device is selected from a ready status of a source telephone and a ready status of a source facsimile device.